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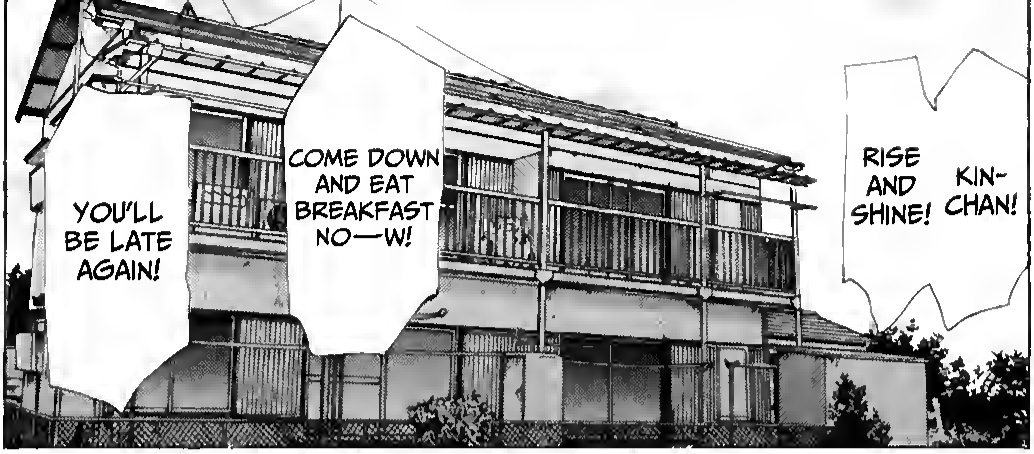
Chapter 23
久保ミツロウ
Mitsurou Kubo
アゲイン!!
Again!!
Raw Provider
Viscans
Translator
Tallice_Lady
Cleaner
ZeroDC, WL
Proofreader
TeamTam
Typesetter
ZeroDC
Quality Checkers
Pinelady, TeamTam
Viscans
#supreme@irc.irchighway.net
supremecream.wordpress.com
#viscans@irc.irchighway.net
vi-scans.com
久保ミツロウ
講談社

Chapter 23 / She is the Face of a Woman



SFX: SNORE

SFX: CHOMP CHOMP

THANKS FOR THE MEAL!
SFX: CLATTER
I REALLY DON'T WANNA GO, BUT I'M OFF.
OKAY! HAVE A NICE DAY!
HE KEEPS COMPLAINING ABOUT THIS AND THAT,
BUT IT SOUNDS LIKE HE'S HAVING FUN AT SCHOOL.
Don't you think? Granny?
IT'S NOT FUN!!
YOU DON'T HAVE ENOUGH SPIRIT!
PUT MORE EFFORT INTO IT!

CHAN-KUMA, WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING!
SFX: SLAP
IMA-MURA, WHERE'S YOUR ANSWER!?
OSU!!
SFX: PANT PANT PANT
NO WAY!!
DANCHOU, I'LL GIVE YOU A PIGGY-BACK RIDE NEXT!!
RUN!
SFX: TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP
JUMP!
Wipe that creepy grin off your face, Chan-kuma!
Oh!
SFX: HOP HOP
YOU AREN'T TRYING AT ALL! GIVE ME MORE!! MORE!!
PUT MORE EFFORT INTO IT!!
Osu!!
Osu!!

IF YOU OVEREXERT THE BODY WITH TRAINING, THEN YOUR MOVEMENTS GET SLOPPIER AND THEY END UP EMBEDDED THAT WAY IN YOUR BRAIN. EVEN KUWATA MASUMI* SAYS SO!!
CAN'T WE DO THIS MORE EFFICIENTLY?
IS THERE ANY POINT TO THESE METHODS OF PRACTICING THAT ARE BASED ON WILLPOWER ALONE?
SFX: THUD
SFX: THUD THUD THUD

*T/N: KUWATA MASUMI IS A JAPANESE BASEBALL PLAYER, PITCHER FOR THE YOMIURI GIANTS AND MORE RECENTLY THE PITTSBURGH PIRATES. HE SUSTAINED INJURIES IN 2006 AND RETIRED.

SHUT UP!
SEE, HE'S NOT TAKING YOU SERIOUSLY 'CAUSE YOU'RE A GIRL!
YOU SHOULDN'T APPLY RANDOM OPINIONS YOU FOUND ON THE NET TO REAL WORLD PRACTICE.
IMAMURA...
SFX: THUD THUD THUD

I CARELESSLY MADE THAT PROMISE WITH SUZUKI OF THE BASEBALL CLUB, BUT...
I WILL.
IMAMURA, CHEER FOR ME.
IMA-MURA!
STOP SLACKING AND TRY HARDER!
ムカ…
PEOPLE WHO AREN'T DOING ANYTHING THEMSELVES SHOULDN'T BE SO QUICK TO TELL OTHERS WHAT TO DO!!
WHAT'S WITH YOU?
DON'T VENT YOUR ANGER ON ME!
I'M JUST TELLING YOU TO WISEN UP BECAUSE YOU WERE THE ONE WHO DECIDED TO JOIN THE OUENDAN!!

SFX: IRRITATED...

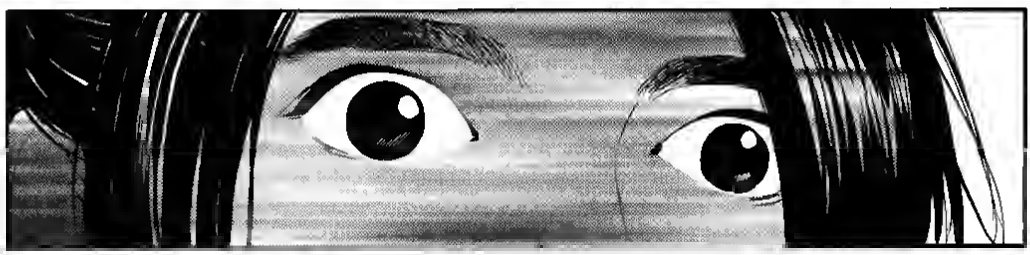
WHAT'S THE POINT IN TRYING SO HARD WHEN YOUR HEADS ARE UP IN THE CLOUDS!?
THINGS LIKE ACTING ROUGH, BUILDING WILL-POWER, AND PUT-TING YOUR SPIRIT INTO IT HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH WHETHER OR NOT THE BASEBALL TEAM CAN WIN!

AND WHAT I HATE THE MOST IN THE WORLD...
IS WHEN I'M ALREADY TRYING HARD AND I'M TOLD TO TRY HARDER!
Haa
SFX: POINTS OUT
IF YOU FEEL THAT WAY, THEN CAN YOU REALLY BE A PART OF THE OUEN-DAN...?
IN OTHER WORDS...
YOU'RE UNSATISFIED WITH HOW THE OUENDAN DOES THINGS.
Haa
HE SAID IT SO BOLDLY.
YEAH... THAT WOULD BE IT...

THE BASEBALL TEAM'S OPPONENTS DURING THE SIX SCHOOL TOURNAMENT HAVE BEEN DECIDED!!
STOP IT, USAMI!
WHAT ARE YOU PLAY-ING?
HEY!
SFX: UGH UGH UGH...
SFX: TURN
IT'S SET FOR GOLDEN WEEK IN MAY*, THE OPPO-NENT IS...
WHOA, CALM DOWN A BIT.
WHO IS IT!?

*T/N: THE JAPANESE SCHOOL YEAR STARTS IN APRIL. THIS IS THE FIRST GAME OF THE YEAR.

SFX: TADAH!
ドドーン!!
SAITAMA PREFECTURAL KABOSU SUPER SCIENCE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL...
A.K.A. KABO-KOKU!!
Saitama Prefectural
Kabosu Super Science Senior High School

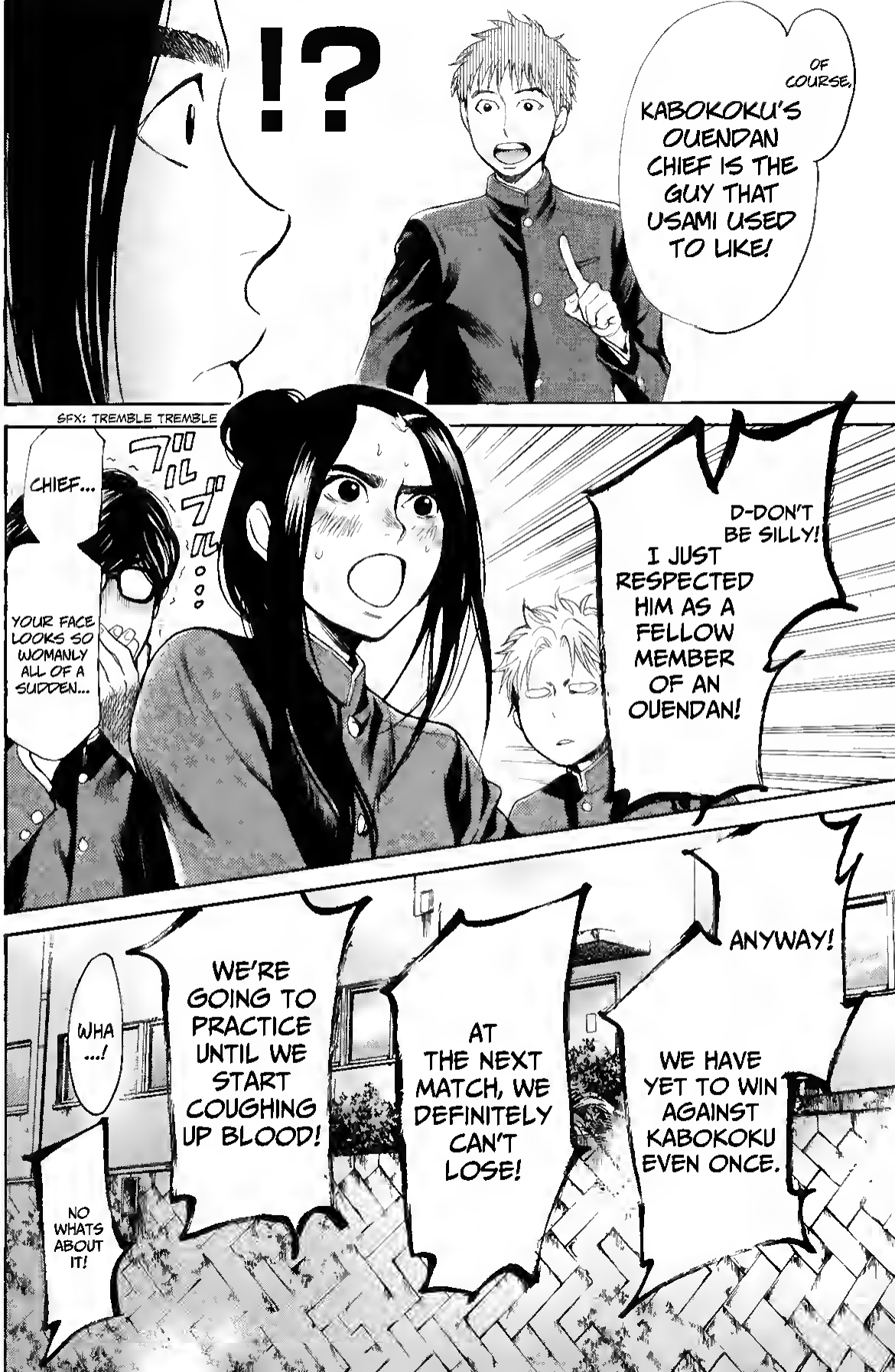


FROM THEIR NAME, THEY DON'T SOUND LIKE THEY'D BE ANY GOOD AT BASE-BALL.
EVEN IF WE DON'T CHEER, IT'S PRETTY MUCH IN THE BAG.

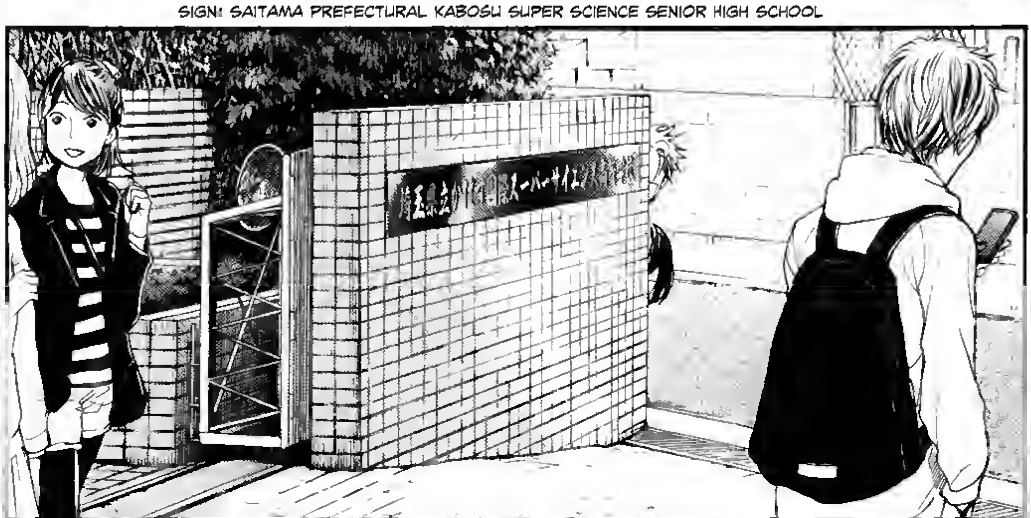
HUH?
THERE'S A HIGH SCHOOL WITH THAT NAME?
YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT IT, IMA-MURA?
I DIDN'T GROW UP AROUND HERE.

HM?
KABO-KOKU USED TO BE CALLED THE KABOSU TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL.
AND IT JUST CHANGED ITS NAME LAST YEAR.
KABOSU TECHNICAL EVEN GOT TO THE KOUSHIEN ONE YEAR, AND IT HAS ONE OF THE STRONGEST BASEBALL TEAMS.
.....
SFX: OSU!!
IT ALSO HAS ONE OF THE OLDEST TRADITIONS IN OUENDAN
AND IS FAMOUS FOR BEING ONE OF THE ROUGHEST.
KABOKOKU'S OUENDAN IS THE ONLY ONE IN THESE PARTS TO STILL HAVE SUCH A RETRO CHEERING STYLE!!
THEY'RE REALLY COOL!!
HUH ...
!!!
押忍!

COMPARED TO KABO-KOKU, OUR OUENDAN IS JUST A LAX BUNCH OF BABIES.
YOU'D BETTER NOT SLACK OFF!
SFX: VEX
KABOKOKU ISN'T THE TYPE OF OUENDAN YOU CAN BEAT IF ALL IT TAKES FOR YOU TO GET YOUR KNICKERS IN A BUNCH
SFX: VEX VEX VEX VEX VEX VEX VEX VEX VEX VEX VEX VEX
IS FOR SOMEONE TO TELL YOU TO WORK HARDER...
GO TAKE A LOOK AT HOW THEY TRAIN FOR THEIR CHEERS.
ONLY THOSE WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED TRUE HELL KNOW HOW TO REALLY CHEER!
THEIR OUENDAN IS...
IT'S REALLY ... AMAZING.
HM?
AH!


!?
OF COURSE,
KABOKOKU'S OUENDAN CHIEF IS THE GUY THAT USAMI USED TO LIKE!
SFX: TREMBLE TREMBLE
CHIEF...
YOUR FACE LOOKS SO WOMANLY ALL OF A SUDDEN...
D-DON'T BE SILLY!
I JUST RESPECTED HIM AS A FELLOW MEMBER OF AN OUENDAN!
ANYWAY!
WE HAVE YET TO WIN AGAINST KABOKOKU EVEN ONCE.
AT THE NEXT MATCH, WE DEFINITELY CAN'T LOSE!
WE'RE GOING TO PRACTICE UNTIL WE START COUGHING UP BLOOD!
WHA ...!
NO WHATS ABOUT IT!

SIGN: SAITAMA PREFECTURAL KABOSU SUPER SCIENCE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

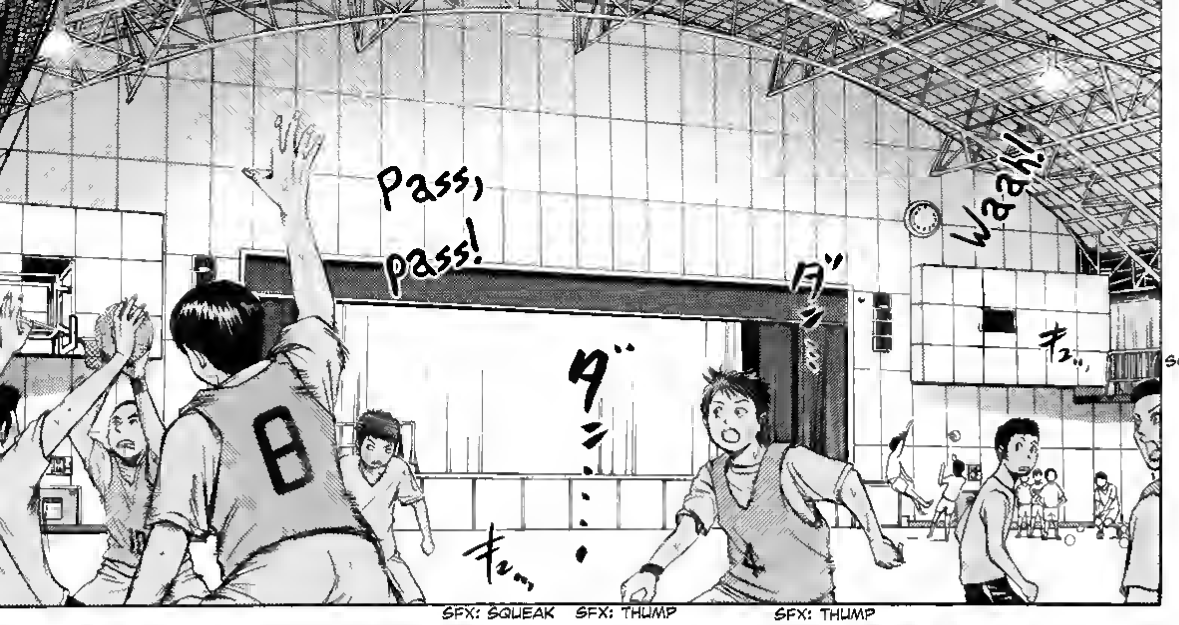


SFX: STEP STEP STEP

WON'T THEY REALIZE THAT WE'RE FROM A DIFFERENT SCHOOL?
IT'S FINE, THEY DON'T HAVE A UNIFORM HERE!!

AN OLD SCHOOL OUEN-DAN...?
WOULD A PLACE LIKE THIS REALLY HAVE...
OUEN-DAN?
THEY WOULD BE IN THE GYM...

THE STUDENTS AT THIS SCHOOL SURE ARE FLASHY.



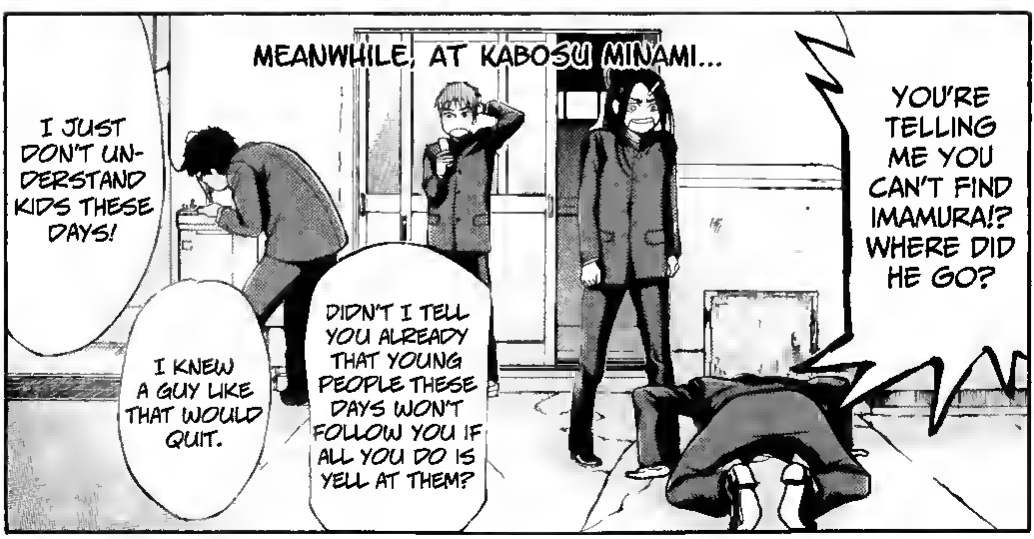
SFX: SQUEAK SFX: THUMP SFX: THUMP

SFX: GLANCE GLANCE

SFX: RUSH

SFX: GRAB
!?
OSU!
OSU!
SFX: FWIP FWIP FWIP FWIP
OSU!

THE CHIEF THAT CHIEF LIKES IS...
THIS GUY?


MEANWHILE, AT KABOSU MINAMI...
I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND KIDS THESE DAYS!
I KNEW A GUY LIKE THAT WOULD QUIT.
DIDN'T I TELL YOU ALREADY THAT YOUNG PEOPLE THESE DAYS WON'T FOLLOW YOU IF ALL YOU DO IS YELL AT THEM?
YOU'RE TELLING ME YOU CAN'T FIND IMAMURA!? WHERE DID HE GO?

アゲイン!!
Again!!